

GRACE LUTHERAN ECC & PRESCHOOL



News and Notes

April 2018

Dear Parents,

He is risen! We are now entering April and still waiting for Spring to arrive. The children are still going outside; however they are just not able to stay out for very long. I would like to remind you once again to continue to send the heavy coats, and when we have snow, boots and snow pants so that the children are able to play outside. We do go outside every day, so prepare your children with the proper outerwear. We have a busy month ahead, so watch for special notes and handouts coming home this month.

I wanted to take a little time to pass along to you our new policy on screen time at our center.

Grace ECC does not use television or electronics as part of the regular curriculum.

Infant, Toddler, and Two's have 0 minutes of screen time.

3-5 year olds may have no more than 15 minutes of screen time a week.

6 years and up may have no more than 1 hour a day.

Although Grace ECC does not use screen time as part of our curriculum, movies may be shown on occasion for special events. A child will always have the option not to watch.

The Food for Families food drive which was held from February 1 through April 1st is now over. Thank you to all the families that participated. Grace ECC collected 685 articles of food to pass on to the Hunger Task Force which exceeded our goal and also won the competition between the ECC and the School. Great job!

As you are all aware, we are in process of completing our Technical Formal YoungStar rating. Our window for our final evaluation is set for April 16th through May 11th. All the teachers have been busy creating an environment that will take us to the next quality level with YoungStar. The children have adjusted to every change with ease, and are excited as they see the changes in the classroom. In order to be fully prepared for April 16th we are asking for a little parental help.

On **Saturday, April 14th we will be at the center from 8:00 AM to 12:00** working throughout the center. If you can help in any way, please sign up on the Parent Bulletin Board.

Following is a list of areas that we could use a little help in:

- Fluffing the wood chips on playground/inspecting equipment for safety
- Painting the coat racks
- Dusting the rooms and hall way
- Spot paint in classrooms
- Checking for cob webs and dust bunnies throughout the center
- Cleaning air ducts and cold air returns
- Clean windows

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please stop in the office or call me.

God's Blessings,

Rachel Miliacca

MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, April 6—Help us move furniture—6pm. All our floors will be waxed on Saturday so everything needs to be moved!

Thursday, April 12 – National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day – Children will have mini grilled cheese for snack.

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Saturday, April 14— Help us clean and paint the center. 9am—noon

Tuesday, April 17th – National Cheeseball Day – Cheeseballs for snack today

Friday, April 20th – Parent Night Out 6PM-10PM

Thursday, April 26th – National Pretzel Day – Pretzel's for snack today

Friday April 27th – PJ Day all day- Wear your PJ's to school today

Parent Night Out

Staff: Rachel Miliacca
Katie Nowack

A special Parent Night Out for February is planned for April 20th. We will celebrate the return of Spring by decorating spring cookies and planting some flowers.

Friday, April 20th, 2018

6PM to 10PM

As always this program is open to any Grace Early Childhood Center child, Grace Lutheran School students, and any members of the community who wish to come. Please look for the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board near the ECC office, or call 762-8755 to make a reservation. A minimum \$10 donation for our services is appreciated. We will use the money donated for improvements to our classrooms.

Koalas (6 weeks to 1 year)

Staff: Christie Perez, Samantha Otzelberger, Rachel Miliacca

The babies in the Koalas room celebrated Easter with egg decorating. They also celebrated the first day of spring. We were finally able to take a few longer stroller rides, and lay out the mats for physical development and enjoy some of the spring like weather before it winter returns again.

We worked on the five senses with the babies. Simple things like smelling their lunches, blowing the ceiling decorations, and touching textured books were some of the sensory activities for the month. A favorite for the babies was painting with baby dolls. Some of the babies used the doll's feet to make foot prints on their papers

Our inside physical development in March included a baby obstacle course for the crawlers, and walking the halls with the soon to be walkers. Of the eight children in the baby room, only six of them either walk already or are near the walking stage. The baby room has now become a very busy room using cars, wagons, and push toys to move around.

Our Jesus time this month was spent preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter. We played with large play food for our "Jesus Feeds Five Thousand." We swept the floor with play broom for our Mary and Martha story, and are beginning to use the sign for "sorry" in the classroom to go with the bible story "Our Loving Father."

Our main theme for April includes the celebration of Jesus rising from the dead. We will continue to decorate our room with the spring decorations, and look for signs of spring as we take our walks. Our Jesus time in April will include the story of Emmaus, Hannah, and Little Boy Samuel.



FLAMINGOS (Transition Room)

Staff: Kim Haake

Welcome to April and all the showers to go along with that. The little ones in Flamingos have been working very hard on sensory motor, large motor and using their own creativity through art work and play.

Last month was full of fun activities such as learning how Jesus died on the cross for everyone. We also had fun learning about Easter and had a small celebration in honor of Jesus. We painted cut out eggs with different colors and made rainbows, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

We will be learning new Bible stories this month as well as talking about the weather, and how it will, hopefully, begin to warm up as the precipitation changes from snow to rain. We will also be talking about the weather, flowers, and butterflies for the beginning of spring.

Just a reminder to please continue to bring in jackets and hats until we do have that warmer weather, hope all of you have a great month!



Freddie enjoying playing peek-a-boo by the tunnel.

Hazel as she just finished reading

a book with Ms. Kim



PENGUINS (1 – 2 year olds)

Staff: Ms. Jessi

The Penguins had a fun time talking about Easter over the past few weeks. We enjoyed making different types of Easter crafts. We had fun making bingo dotted and free colored Easter Eggs. Our favorite Bible story was the story of Easter and how Jesus saved us all. We discussed how Jesus loves and cares for us.

During the Month of April, the Penguin Class will work on the colors purple and blue. We will work on the signs for “all done” and “help” to help the children communicate a little easier. We will be learning about, Rain showers, flowers, and bugs.



ELEPHANTS (2-3 year olds)

Staff: Jane Durant

Hello parents of the Elephant room, spring is finally here! The month of March flew by so fast. We celebrated a few special days such as Dr. Seuss' birthday and St. Patrick's Day. We want to welcome our newest additions to the Elephants room Jackson, Jenson and Eleazar. We also want to wish Emily a happy birthday!

Our theme for the month of March is "God Gives Us Good Things." We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by gluing red and white stripes together to make the hat for the cat. The kids learned how to make a pattern. We also did some foot stamping with red paint for the theme of "The Foot Book" and played I Spy relating to the "The Eye Book." The children were able to identify a lot of shapes and colors with this activity. We had a picnic to reenact the story of "Jesus Feeds 5,000." Yummy, we ate five oyster crackers to represent the five loaves of bread and two fish crackers to represent the two fish. St. Patrick's Day was fun, we ate green foods and played "I Spy" something green. We paint stamped with green peppers to make a clover shape and glued three hearts to make our Trinity clovers. Each heart (leaf) represented the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The children identified four different colors that we glued to make our rainbows. We had fun during snack time eating our butterfly cut outs from bread and the antennas were pretzels, yum! We made our "Hungry Caterpillars" by paint stamping with marshmallows. Hand and finger stamping with yellow paint to make our mom and baby chicks were a fun sensory activity. Quack, quack, watch out for our rubber duckies. We did some counting as we sang our "Ten little ducks swimming in a pond."

Our theme in April is "God Brings New Life." We will celebrate new life as we plant seeds and watch them grow. April showers bring May flowers. We will be doing lots activities focused around flowers and what makes them grow, like the sun and rain. We also do activities that represent all the birds and animals that come out in the Spring. Earth Day is another special day in April that we will talk about.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

God's richest blessings,

Jane



BEARS (3-4 year old-)

Staff: Katie Nowack

The Bears read many fun stories this past month, starting with Dr. Seuss books. We read “One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish” The children could count 1, 2, 3. We also enjoyed a special snack of tuna and crackers. Some of the children enjoyed the snack while others wouldn’t try it. Another book we read was, “The Cat in the Hat.” We counted stripes on Dr. Seuss’s hat, ordered the hats from biggest to smallest and enjoyed a snack made with a marshmallow for the face and a banana and strawberry for the hat. We ended the month talking about books by Eric Carle. We did many fun projects with the book “The Very Hungry Caterpillar”. We made a bit of a mess while planting grass seed in egg carton caterpillars. Be sure to step in the classroom and observe how quickly the grass grows. While in the classroom look in our green house as we begin to plant our flowers for the garden boxes.

We also talked about Easter! The children learned that Jesus died on the cross and rose again. We are working on two songs: “Jesus Isn’t Dead”, which talks about how we feel Jesus all over our body. The other song we learned is “Here comes Jesus”, which is a favorite as it ends with lots of jumping. We also learned the Easter story through a little poem from our “One in Christ” curriculum. The poem goes with the rhythm of “Brown Bear Brown Bear” so it was a great poem to learn. Be sure to ask your child about the poem.

The Bears will learn about the signs of spring throughout April. They will play in the water table, talk about lions and lambs and also look at how we grow bigger just like flowers. We will also talk about healthy foods as we will hopefully be able to plant some plants in our garden boxes outside. We will begin to plant out seeds and watch them grow. We will get to play in the dirt and mud and watch as our seeds grow to healthy foods and beautiful flowers.

A reminder to parents that have snack this month for the Bears. Please think about the healthy aspect of snack time for our friends. If you need another copy of the recommended snacks, please ask me for a copy. Thanks for all the great snacks thus far. (Also remember that the buy-out option is available for \$40)



Planting our grass seed Caterpillars.
Thanks Pastor for helping us clean up!



Playing Red Rover Red Rover as a
name to face recognition game.

MONKEYS (4 year olds)

Staff: Judi Behlke

Halleluiah! We made it to April! Does that really mean Spring has Sprung? We all hope so!

We introduced the Monkeys “rhyming words/pictures. They also continued through the alphabet. We read some great books this month including, “Seals Silly Sandwich,” “Tully Turtle Comes to Tea,” “Umbrella Bird’s Umbrella,” and “Wally Worms Wagon Ride.”

The Monkeys St. Patrick’s unit had us making rainbows, foot leprechauns, stencil sponge painted shamrocks, pots of “gold”, and a Leprechaun surprise (pudding).

The Monkeys Jesus time had them on a journey with Jesus into Jerusalem all the way to the cross and his exciting resurrection! It’s been a joy to teach them through word and song about our “Savior” Jesus! The Monkeys were reminded how he has made us white as snow and given us life eternal because of his death and resurrection.

Please make sure your child has their folder at the center daily. When picking your child up, the closing teacher will be giving your child his/her folder with all the papers inside. Papers and folders are being left on the floor in the coat hook area, so we are trying something new to alleviate this problem.

Love in Christ,

Ms Judi

